UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/776,311	02/02/2001	Naofumi Ueda	55583(2012)	6714

21874	7590	02/04/2005

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. BOX 55874
BOSTON, MA 02205

EXAMINER
PENDERGRASS, KYLE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/776,311	UEDA, NAOFUMI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kyle M Pendergrass	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
     closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.
     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
     a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
           application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/24/04</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: The sentence in

the claim ends with the word "and". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-19 & 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuda et al. (US 6,058,249).

Regarding claim 1 **(currently amended),** Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, *image forming*

apparatus 200) for carrying out the printing of print jobs transmitted from a host device in order of receipt

(fig 19, *printing data is generated in a PC via external interface controller 118 and sent to printer via*

input/print section & controller 122 & 124), said apparatus comprising:

a queue management unit (fig 19, *main controller 114 with print Que tables*) that holds a print job to

which a password is attached and which is transmitted from said host device together with normal

print jobs for which no password entry is required in a queue, and that manages the order of all print

jobs (fig 19, & column 15:lines 40-42 & 56-59, *print jobs for any data acquired by performing the*

printing function is registered in the print Que Table for printing function &, column 16:lines 13-14, *are*

ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114), until said password is entered

(column 16:lines 15-23, *password print jobs are provided a lower priority until designation of*

password);

and a control unit (fig 37, *panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114)* for

sequentially carrying out, upon entry of the password for the password-attached print job that is being

held, the printing of the password-attached print jobs in order of entry of the password in preference

over the normal print jobs, which require no password entry, that are waiting for print (column 23:line

62 – column 24:line 9, *password print jobs which cannot be printed until their password has been*

correctly input are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is inputted and validated.

Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required

state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over

normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4).

Regarding claim 2 **(previously presented),** Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs in said queue in a print hold

status (column 23:lines 63-67, *password print jobs that does not have a correctly inputted password are*

held in the print Que table, prevented from executing), moves a password-attached print job for which the

password has been entered to the end of print jobs stored in said queue while releasing the print hold

status, and carries out the printing of the password-attached print jobs for which the passwords have

been entered in order of release of said print hold status (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected*

for execution in the order they have been acquired. Column 24:lines 1-2, *when a password is input, the*

hold status is removed when the priority level is changed to 8. It follows that when print jobs with correct

password input are given higher priority, they are acquired ahead of future print jobs and are printed

before those future print jobs of equivalent priority levels*).*

Regarding claim 3 **(previously presented)**, Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus according to

claim 1. Matsuda et al., further teach a main CPU (fig 3, *main CPU 30*) that controls the start of printing

(column 7:lines 32-38, *main CPU 30 controls the overall image forming apparatus 200*). The clocking of

print jobs is met by the clocking of the main CPU in the Matsuda et al., teachings, which has a timing

means built in to control the output of the print jobs.

Regarding claim 4 **(previously presented)**, Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus according to

claim 2. Matsuda et al., further teach a main CPU (fig 3, *main CPU 30*) that controls the start of printing

(column 7:lines 32-38, *main CPU 30 controls the overall image forming apparatus 200*). The clocking of

print jobs is met by the clocking of the main CPU in the Matsuda et al., teachings, which has a timing

means built in to control the output of the print jobs.

Regarding claims 5-7 **(previously presented)**, which collectively concern the use of pointers to indicate

the ends of the preferenced password print job list and the normal print job list in the Que, Matsuda et al.,

teach the printing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the sequencing of print jobs is accomplished by

a control means (fig 37, *main controller 114)* that controls the transfer order of the produced data so that

the data is subsequently received and preferentially output (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected*

for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 9,

password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig

34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state

are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal

print jobs that are given a priority level of 4). Matsuda et al., do not explicitly teach a control unit that

comprises two pointers, one for indicating the end of password-attached print jobs stored in the queue,

and one for indicating the end of the normal print jobs stored in the queue, although Matsuda et al., teach

the use of priority levels to separate password and normal print jobs, and Matsuda et al., teach registering

acquisition information that is used to select the order of output (column 16:lines 9-14). The Office

interprets that the pointers in the invention are equivalent to the ordering ability of Matsuda et al., that

allows preferential ordering of print queue documents.

Regarding claims 9-11 **(previously presented)**, which collectively concern the use of pointers to indicate

the ends of the preferenced password print job list and the normal print job list in the Que, Matsuda et al.,

teach the printing apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the sequencing of print jobs is accomplished by

a control means (fig 37, *main controller 114)* that controls the transfer order of the produced data so that

the data is subsequently received and preferentially output (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected*

for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 9,

password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig

34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state

are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal

print jobs that are given a priority level of 4). Matsuda et al., do not explicitly teach a control unit that

comprises two pointers, one for indicating the end of password-attached print jobs stored in the queue,

and one for indicating the end of the normal print jobs stored in the queue, although Matsuda et al., teach

the use of priority levels to separate password and normal print jobs, and Matsuda et al., teach registering

acquisition information that is used to select the order of output (column 16:lines 9-14). The Office

interprets that the pointers in the invention are equivalent to the ordering ability of Matsuda et al., that

allows preferential ordering of print queue documents.

Regarding claims 12-14 **(previously presented)**, which collectively concern the use of pointers to

indicate the ends of the preferenced password print job list and the normal print job list in the Que,

Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the sequencing of print jobs is

accomplished by a control means (fig 37, *main controller 114)* that controls the transfer order of the

produced data so that the data is subsequently received and preferentially output (column 16:lines 13-14,

print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 –

column 24:line 9, *password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is*

correctly inputted. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-

password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given

preference in print order over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4). Matsuda et al., do not

explicitly teach a control unit that comprises two pointers, one for indicating the end of password-attached

print jobs stored in the queue, and one for indicating the end of the normal print jobs stored in the queue,

although Matsuda et al., teach the use of priority levels to separate password and normal print jobs, and

Matsuda et al., teach registering acquisition information that is used to select the order of output (column

16:lines 9-14). The Office interprets that the pointers in the invention are equivalent to the ordering ability

of Matsuda et al., that allows preferential ordering of print queue documents.

Regarding claim 15 **(currently amended)**, Matsuda et al., teach a printing method used in a print

apparatus that during printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required, upon entry of

one or more passwords that each correspond to a password-attached print job, which has been stored in

print hold status and for which password entry is required, the method comprising the steps of:

    verifying that each of the entered passwords is a valid password for a corresponding password-

attached print job (column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 3, *fig 36 with password-input menu display*

acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if

the password assigned to it has been entered correctly);

    printing each password-attached print job in order of password entry after completion of the printing

of the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, wherein printing of each password-

attached print job is carried out in preference over the other normal print jobs, for which no password

entry is required, that are waiting for print (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected for execution*

in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 9, *password*

print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig 34,

teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state

are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference in print

order over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4. Therefore, the second password-

attached print job will print following the completion of the first password-attached print job).

Regarding claim 16 **(currently amended)**, Matsuda et al., teach a printing method used in a print

apparatus for printing a plurality of password-attached print jobs, the method comprising the steps of:

verifying, during printing of a first password-attached print job for which password entry is required,

upon entry of a password for a second or subsequent password-attached print job that has been

stored in print hold status, that the entered password is a valid password for the second or

subsequent password-attached print iob (column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 3, *fig 36 with password-*

input menu display acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from

its hold status if the password assigned to it has been entered correctly. Password entry occurs at

any time a print job from a job in print hold status has been selected for entry of password which

includes entering a password for a second password-attached job while a first password-attached job

is printing); and

printing the second or subsequent password-attached print job after the printing of the first password-

attached print job is completed, wherein the second or subsequent password-attached print job is

carried out after a predetermined amount of time (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected for*

execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 9,

password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted.

Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required

state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference in

print order over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4. Therefore, the second password-

attached print job will print following the completion of the first password-attached print job). Matsuda

et al., further teach a main CPU (fig 3, *main CPU 30*) that controls the start of printing (column 7:lines

32-38, *main CPU 30 controls the overall image forming apparatus 200*). The clocking of print jobs is

met by the clocking of the main CPU in the Matsuda et al., teachings, which has a timing means built

in to control the output of the print jobs, which caries out a print job after a predetermined amount of time.

Regarding claim 18 **(currently amended)**, Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, *image forming apparatus 200*) for printing print data transmitted from a host device in order of reception (fig 19, *printing data is generated in a PC via external interface controller 118 and sent to printer via input/print section & controller 122 & 124*), said apparatus comprising:

a queue management unit (fig 19, *main controller 114 with print Que tables*) for holding a password-attached print data transmitted from said host device (fig 19, & column 15:lines 40-42 & 56-59, *print jobs for any data acquired by performing the printing function is registered in the print Que Table for printing function &, column 16:lines 13-14, are ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114*), until said password is entered (column 16:lines 15-23, *password print jobs are provided a lower priority until designation of password*);

and a control unit (fig 37, *panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114*) for upon entry of the password for the password-attached print job that is being held, sequentially printing of the password-attached print jobs in order of entry of the password in preference over the normal print jobs, which require no password entry, that are waiting for print (column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 9, *password print jobs which cannot be printed until their password has been correctly input are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is inputted and validated. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4.*).

Regarding claim 19 **(previously presented)**, Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, *image forming apparatus 200*) for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114*) while putting password-attached print jobs, for which password entry is

required, in print hold status (column 23:lines 63-67, *password print jobs that does not have a correctly inputted password are held in the print Que table, prevented from executing*), said apparatus comprising:

an input unit via which a password for a password-attached print job is entered (column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 3, *fig 36 with password-input menu display*);

and a control unit (fig 37, panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114) whereby the print hold status of said password-attached print job whose password agrees with the password entered via said input unit is released, and the printing of said password-attached print jobs is carried out in order of password entry, in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting for print (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired.* Column 24:lines 1-2, *when a correct password is input, the hold status is removed and the priority level is changed to 8.* It follows that print jobs with correct inputted passwords are acquired ahead of future print jobs and are printed before those future print jobs of equivalent priority levels. In addition, *Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4.* Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4).

Regarding claim 24 **(currently amended),** Matsuda et al., teach a printing system (fig 1, *image forming apparatus 200*) comprising:

a queue management unit (fig 19, *main controller 114 with print Que tables*) that holds password-attached print data to which a plurality of passwords are attached and which are transmitted from a host device (fig 19, & column 15:lines 40-42 & 56-59, *print jobs for any data acquired by performing the printing function is registered in the print Que Table for printing function*), until said password is entered (column 16:lines 15-23, *password print jobs are provided a lower priority until designation of password*);

and a control unit (fig 37, *panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114*) by which, upon entry of the password for the password-attached print data that is being held, the printing of the password-attached print data is sequentially printed in order of entry of the passwords, in preference

over normal print data that are waiting for print and for which no password entry is required (column

23:line 62 – column 24:line 9, *password print jobs which cannot be printed until their password has*

been correctly input are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is inputted and

validated. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-

password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are

given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 8, 17, & 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al.
(US 6,058,249) & Kageyama et al. (US 6,567,180).**

Regarding claim 8 **(previously presented)**, Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus accordingly to

claim 1 (see rejection above), but do not teach an image list for displaying password-attached print jobs

that are in queue in print hold status.

However, Kageyama et al. teach an image list for displaying print jobs that are in queue in print

hold status (fig 13 *teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in*

print hold status).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

have used the display for displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the

printing apparatus taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate

their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is

available for release upon correct input of the document's password.

Regarding claim 17 **(currently amended)**, Matsuda et al., teach a printing method used in a print

apparatus for printing one or more password-attached print jobs for which password entry is required

during printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required, the method comprising the

steps of:

verifying, upon entry of a password for any of the password-attached print jobs stored in print hold

status, that the password is a valid password for one of the password-attached print jobs(column

23:line 62 – column 24:line 3, *fig 36 with password-input menu display acquires a password, and*

releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if the password assigned to it

has been entered correctly);

and printing each of the password-attached print jobs in order of password entry, wherein printing of

each of the password-attached print jobs is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs that

are waiting for print (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected for execution in the order they*

have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 9, *password print jobs are given*

a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig 34, teaches that default

priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4.

Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference in print order over

normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4. Therefore, the second password-attached print

job will print following the completion of the first password-attached print job).

Matsuda et al., do not teach method further comprising a step of displaying a list of password-

attached print jobs which are stored in print hold status.

However, Kageyama et al. teach a display unit (fig 13) for displaying the password-attached print

jobs that are in print hold status (fig 13 *teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state,*

i.e. print jobs in print hold status). Kageyama et al. also teach an instruction enabling the release of a print

job from a suspended state (column 13 :lines 29-31 & 36).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the method of displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the printing apparatus method taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is available for release upon correct input of the document's password. Furthermore, the suspended state release taught by Kageyama et al. follows the functionality of the password print hold status release taught by Matsda et al.

Regarding claim 20 **(previously presented)**, Matsuda et al., teach printing apparatus according to claim 19 (see rejection above), wherein said control unit (fig 37, *panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114*) receives a designation of a single password-attached print job from a display unit, compares the password of the designated password-attached print job with the password that has been entered via said input unit, and releases the print hold status of said password-attached print job when the passwords agree with each other, thereby rendering the printing of said password-attached print job possible (column 23:line 62 – column 24:line 3, *fig 36 with password-input menu display acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if the password assigned to it has been entered*).

Matsuda et al., do not teach the apparatus further comprising a display unit for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status when password entry is received via said input unit.

However, Kageyama et al. teach a display unit (fig 13) for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status (fig 13 *teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status*). Kageyama et al. also teach an instruction enabling the release of a print job from a suspended state (column 13 :lines 29-31 & 36).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the display for displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the printing apparatus taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate

their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is

available for release upon correct input of the document's password. Furthermore, the suspended state

release taught by Kageyama et al. follows the functionality of the password print hold status release

taught by Matsda et al.

Regarding claim 21 (previously presented), the claim rejection of claim 20 is representative of claim 21.

See Kageyama et al., wherein said display unit displays a plurality of password-attached print jobs that

are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated

as the object of entry of the password via said input unit (fig 13 *teaches a display list for displaying print*

jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status. Furthermore, column 13 :lines 29-31 & 36

teach an instruction enabling the release of a print job from a suspended state, thereby designating a

particular print job in suspended state for releasing the suspending state. In following with the argument

presented in claim 20, the suspended state release in the combination of Matsuda et al. and Kageyama

et al. is accomplished by a password being input for releasing a print hold status).

Regarding claim 22 **(previously presented),** Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, *image*

forming apparatus 200) for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is

required, in order of reception (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are ordered with regard to time of*

acquisition into the controller 114) while putting password-attached print jobs, for which password entry is

required, in print hold status (column 23:lines 63-67, *password print jobs that does not have a correctly*

inputted password are held in the print Que table, prevented from executing), said apparatus comprising:

an input unit via which a password for a password-attached print job is entered (column 23:line 62 –

column 24:line 3, *fig 36 with password-input menu display);*

a control unit (fig 37, *panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114*) by which, upon

entry, via said input unit, of the password for a password-attached print job that has been designated

from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit, the print hold status of

the password-attached print job for which the password has been entered is released and the printing

thereof is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is

required, that are waiting for print (column 16:lines 13-14, *print jobs are selected for execution in the*

order they have been acquired. Column 24:lines 1-2, *when a correct password is input, the hold*

status is removed and the priority level is changed to 8. It follows that print jobs with correct inputted

passwords are acquired ahead of future print jobs and are printed before those future print jobs of

equivalent priority levels. In addition, *Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print*

data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with

priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4).

       Matsuda et al., do not teach the apparatus further comprising a display unit for displaying

a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the

password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of the entry of the password in said input

unit.

       However, Kageyama et al., teach wherein said display unit displays a plurality of password-

attached print jobs that are in print hold status (i.e. print jobs in a suspended state) in such a manner that

one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of entry of the password via said

input unit (fig 13 *teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print*

hold status. Furthermore, column 13:lines 29-31 & 36 *teach an instruction enabling the release of a print*

job from a suspended state, thereby designating a particular print job in suspended state for releasing the

suspending state).

       Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

have used the display for displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the

printing apparatus taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate

their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is

available for release upon designation of the document and correct input of the document's password.

Furthermore, the suspended state release taught by Kageyama et al. follows the functionality of the

password print hold status release taught by Matsda et al.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al. (US 6,058,249) & Kageyama et al. (US 6,567,180) as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Ueda et al. (US 5,956,471).

Regarding claim 23 **(previously presented),** Matsuda et al. & Kageyama et al. teach the printing apparatus according to claim 22, but do not teach wherein a notice is given in the event that the password for the password-attached print job designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit does not agree with the password entered via said input unit.

However, Ueda et al. teach wherein a notice is given in the event that the password for the password-attached print job designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit does not agree with the password entered via said input unit (column 8:line 67 - column 9:line 4).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the error warning display taught by Ueda et al. in the printing system with a password input unit as taught by Matsuda et al. & Kageyama et al. because it quickly issues a notice to the user that their password input was not correct and the print request was not activated.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Response to Office Action, pages 10-13, filed November 10, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s)of claim(s) 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art references that form a complete rejection of the claimed invention.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle Pendergrass whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7438**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on **(571) 272-7440**.

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER